

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 8, 1896.

William Buckminster, Editor.

THIRD AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

On Tuesday evening the farmers assembled again in the State House; the Hon. Mr. Calkins in the Chair. The Hon. Mr. Calkins opened the subject: "The Corn crop, its importance and culture." A large number attended.

Mr. C. remarked that enough had been said on the Dignity of Agriculture, and this point was established at the last meeting. This clearly appeared from the records of the Door keeper of the House of Representatives, who kept a memorandum of the occupations of all the members—almost every member reported himself "a farmer."

Mr. C. spoke of the usefulness of such meetings as these, and stated that the Reports of them were prepared with more interest than the reports of any other meetings in the city. Even the ladies are fond of reading these Reports. Ladies in the country and in this city had been reading them with interest.

Mr. C. referred to the Report of Mr. Ellsworth, the Commissioner of Patents, to show the comparative importance of the corn crop raised in one year. Hay stood highest. This was rated at 617,000 tons; and at six dollars per ton would amount to more than six millions of dollars. The corn crop more than two millions. The oat crop one million and nearly a half. Rye half a million. Thus the corn crop stood next to that of grass.

He then spoke of the Town Agricultural Society of Conway, and of the premiums that had been there awarded for corn crops in Nov. 1894. Governor Briggs was present and addressed the Society. One farmer had grown 122 bushels on 1-14 acre, with 40 lbs. of manure. Another had grown 120 bushels on 1-14 acre. A third farmer had grown 110 bushels on 1-14 acre. A fourth had grown 105 bushels on 1-14 acre. A fifth had grown 103 bushels on 3-4ths of an acre. Other fields were nearly as good.

The average of these fields was 112 bushels of shelled corn per acre, measured in November. Say deduct 1-6th for shelling, and there would be 93 bushels per acre = \$1.67. Thirty loads of manure per acre was the average quantity; and the labor \$40 per acre, leaving \$141.67 per acre for the use of the land and for the farmer. Brokers are considering the very best article to put in corn yards for manure for corn. Farmers there intend to raise more corn and fewer potatoes till the rot has passed off.

Mr. C. said the Committee of the Society measured one acre of the land in each case, and then multiplied that by 160 for the acre. The corn, as was understood, was all shelled.

Hon. Mr. Denny, of Westboro', considered there was no question about the importance of the corn crop. But he would know why we should not raise our own. By the reports under the law, \$40 per acre, leaving \$141.67 per acre for the use of the land and for the farmer. Brokers are considering the very best article to put in corn yards for manure for corn. Farmers there intend to raise more corn and fewer potatoes till the rot has passed off.

Mr. D. went into a calculation to show how cheaply corn can be raised. Take an acre that is now fenced and thoroughly subsoiled; call its value \$50 dollars per acre; the interest of the money \$3; 20 loads of manure 25 dollars. Take a series of 4 years, 1 in corn and 3 in grass. Have no guessing about it, but put down what any one man may do if he pleases. I have had an acre planted and harvested by the job, all put into the soil, at 22 dollars, including the cutting and spreading the manure. I have at the least 55 bushels to the acre. Then I have three grass crops of 1-2 ton each, valued at 10 dollars per ton. I feed the corn over 6 dollars. Corn can thus be raised for 55 cents per bushel; but it has averaged 70 cents, making a difference between purchasing and raising of \$200,000. What a tax for Worcester county?

In answer to an inquiry made by Mr. Brooks, Mr. D. said he had his corn cut at the rot and stacked. He puts 5 rows together, leaving one in the center 8 or 6 in the center row to stand erect in the center of each shock. He counts the cost of harvesting his hay at 2 dollars per acre.

Hon. Mr. Clark of Walpole, thought the corn crop had been too much neglected. Much labor is required to produce it, but it can be grown in the south part of Massachusetts for 50 cents a bushel. Many farmers say it costs them a dollar, but it is not correct. A neighbor of mine who hires all his labor had grown tired of buying corn, and he finds it costs him but 50 cents to raise it on his own farm, yet his land is not of the first quality, it is a sandy soil. In my vicinity the practice is to turn over green sward flat, spread on compost manure, harrow it in lengthwise of the furrow, put no manure from the barn into the hill, but put sales there; it is but little labor compared with manuring in the hill. This we find on trial to be the best method. Our farmers are now turning their attention to corn instead of potatoes.

A stranger present made several inquiries. He said many doubted whether corn can be raised at so cheap a rate.

Dr. Wilder of Leominster wished for some explanation. He asked whether it was fair to count the profits of three crops of grass and one of corn in counting the cost of growing corn?

Mr. W. Buckminster said the question was not whether grass and hay would yield a profit. All agree that these are remunerative harvests when gathered within 80 miles of the capital. But can the corn crop be advantageously increased? The gentleman from Westboro' takes three harvests of hay to one of corn, and shows that he can thus grow corn at a great profit.

Dr. Wilder and Hon. Mr. Clark wished fully to understand the gentleman from Westboro'.

Hon. Mr. Denny said he meant to be understood to say, corn has been raised at 55 cents a bushel, and can be raised so again.

Hon. Mr. Brooks of Princeton, said he raised in rotation potatoes, corn, wheat, grass. His potatoes average 200 bushels per acre—value 30 dollars. Corn 50 bushels—cost of cultivating an acre 25 dollars. Wheat 22 bushels per acre; some grow 30 bushels—worth \$1.50. Cost of getting his hay near the barn, 2 dollars a ton. His average of hay is 1-1-2 tons an acre. In 9 years he obtains from an acre in potatoes, corn, wheat and grass 180 dollars in value. Fully bushels not a large crop of corn. Values his hay at 6 dollars a ton, for it is worth that to him for his stock. It would bring more, but he would not enter his farm. Thanks his corn costs not more than 50 cents.

Hon. Mr. Leonard of Norton, said the corn crop is very important. A large part of the human family feed on it; fowls and beasts too are more readily fattened on it than on any article. It is healthy food, and it is the sweetest crop that is cultivated. We cannot rely on grass and hay on our sandy soil; it is difficult to turn a sword; but we can raise corn. We have grown it for 50 years past, and we have been cut off once—that was in 1816. Then the growth was good with us, but the corn was late, and a frost on the 23d of September from the husks to the corn and the cob. With it has never failed since 1816.

Rye succeeds well, but what rye and is often blighted. I have grown both, but I could have obtained three times as much value in corn. I plough in my rye stubble in the last of April, and grow

from 20 to 40 bushels of corn per acre. Some raise grass by top dressings and buy their corn, often at 50 cents. I have corn three times, yet come but twice and then pull up the weeds.

Mr. Stanley, of Attleboro', raises corn, rye, then grass two or three years. My lands grow continually better by this rotation. I now get 40 to 60 bushels an acre, where I formerly had but 35. I put 3 cords of manure to the acre, and it costs me but 3 dollars to hoe and keep the land perfectly clean through the summer—4 dollars an acre whole cost up to it of harvesting—5 dollars for harvesting—and I have sold the fodder as high as 18 dollars an acre; we sowed and plaster mixed to yet in the hills. [He counts half the manure for the corn. If we understand Mr. Stanley right, his corn costs him much less than 50 cents a bushel.]

R. B. Hubbard, Esq. of Sunderland, wished to learn the best mode of culture. The results in the town of Conway are wonderful. I know the gentleman from that place and doubt not his correctness; but in Sunderland we cannot raise such crops. Some put manure in the hill; some do not. Some spread and plough in, then spread another coat and harrow it in. Many plant early. Last summer I planted as late as the 10th and 11th of June; hoed but once and then cut up the weeds. A first crop Sept. 15th. I had 100 bushels of corn from two acres. We should raise corn if we find nothing profitable. We raise much broom corn for sale, but most farmers raise enough broom corn for their own use. One man has raised from two acres 1800 pounds of broom brush, and 160 bushels of wheat. The brush brought 8 dollars per hundred, and he had 100 dollars profit from 2 acres, planted June 17th. [The seed, as we understood the speaker, repaid the whole cost of production.] The brush brings, on the average, 7 cents a pound.

If so much can be made from broom corn, the grower may buy his bread corn to advantage.

At this a vote was taken to discuss the same subject at the next meeting—Tuesday evening next—to meet at half past six.

The Boston and Worcester R. R. Company asks for more power. A petition is in for an enlargement of capital! Ten hundred thousand dollars are asked for, to be added to its former millions. We ask the members of the legislature to be so in the public to suffer a single company to become more powerful than the State. This company has already pestered the state as much as any company should be permitted to do.

It is unlimited power already to tax people at pleasure; other companies should be permitted to compete with it, for competition is the only means we now have to reduce the rates of fare to their proper level. This company fixes its own rates of toll, and if it has capital enough to cover the earth, the consequence is the earth is subject to its power.

The N. York Journal of Commerce is called a "free trade" paper, and is usually favored by the Administration party. Yet it calls attention to the absurd operation of the treasury notes. It says, "according to this system treasury notes are receivable for cash, but debentures must be paid in specie—so a man may enter goods to-day, and export them to-morrow, and by paying treasury notes and receiving specie, pocket from one and a half to three per cent by the operation. It is thus that men make themselves ridiculous when they interfere with the regular laws of currency and force the government into a financial system which no merchant would accept." The custom-house is obliged to receive treasury notes in payment for goods, and is bound by law to pay out specie on draw-backs!

That most interesting subject "the weather" has been commented on this week with more than common vivacity. The snow storm of Tuesday morning cut a broad sheet over New England. Snow was nearly as deep at Providence yesterday as at Boston. Sleight was never better than now in Boston Street, and sleds and sleighs are all the rage. Yet the weather is mild and the winds are not disposed to be boisterous. February had but just come in when the snowing commenced.

DEFENSIVE WAR. A daughter of Isaac Barker of Thetford, R. I., was married on Wednesday, 26th. In the evening a gang of fellows called the bride at her residence by firing guns, drumming kettles, &c. Mr. Barker remonstrated with them, but to no purpose, they threw stones. He then seized his gun, loaded with shot, and fired into the crowd. Five or six of the assailants were peppered.

SOME DANGER IN IT. Capt. Blanding of South Carolina, a young man, died one of the Mexican battles 42 men, and they came out of it with 50 of the enemies' balls in them. They would have done as well to "pocket these insults" instead of buying them.

A correspondent of the Petersburg Republic says, one of the charges against Gen. Scott is a want of proper official respect to the Secretary of War, and a non-fulfillment of his duty in corresponding with the department. It is said to be a third reading by a vote of 16 yeas to 3 nays.

The bill relating to aid walks in cities was amended and then ordered to a third reading by a vote of 20 yeas and 7 nays.

The report of the Committee on the Mexican war was specially assigned for consideration to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

FIRE IN ROXBURY. A house in Roxbury owned by Stephen M. Wald, Esq. and occupied by Francis Wald, was nearly destroyed by fire on Thursday night of last week. It was supposed to have been set by an incendiary.

THE SCHOLAR'S RECORD BOOK. This is a little book with blank leaves, designed for a memorandum book for children, who have commenced writing.

The New York Courier still asserts that a treaty of peace has been signed at Queretaro. It is not believed. The story was started to help the new loan, say some.

There was a rumor in this city on Wednesday that Senator Davis was dead—his text is soon contradicted. We learn he was in his seat in the Senate on Tuesday.

Eighty thousand cords of wood are consumed in a year on the railways between Albany and Buffalo.

Gen. Towson was at Cincinnati on the 24th ult., on his way to Mexico, to hold a Court of Inquiry on Scott, the Commander in Chief.

The U. S. Sloop of War Decatur, Commander Byrne, for the coast of Africa, sailed from the Charlestown navy yard on Wednesday.

The cotton factory of Gardner Barber, of Hebron, Conn., was burnt on Friday night, \$4,000 insurance.

The store occupied by Tiffany & Lockwood in Buffalo, was destroyed by fire on the 27th.

The boys at Hanover College started a riot last week, and had Whiskey for a leader.

LEGISLATIVE.

FRIDAY, JAN. 28.

IN SENATE. Several petitions were presented and referred.

The bill to increase the capital stock of the Boston and Worcester Railroad Corporation was laid on the table, and with the petition therefor, ordered to be printed.

IN HOUSE. The usual number of petitions were presented, among them the petition of the School Fund of 1845-6 to the town of Georgetown.

Reports from Committees.—By Mr. Torrey, of the Committee on Railways and Canals, bill to extend the time of locating and constructing the Peterboro' and Shirley Railroad.

By Mr. Bullock, of Worcester, Committee on the Judiciary, that it is inexpedient to legislate on the subject of the descent of the estates of intestates.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the order of the day, in which the first subject was the bill to increase the capital stock of the Ballard Vale Machine Shop.

This measure was debated by Messrs. Stevens of Andover, Boutwell of Groton, Smith of Northampton, Lee, of Templeton, Wood, of Fitchburg, Bird, of Walpole, Usher of Lynn, Sergeant, of Cambridge, Torrey of Falmouth, Manning, of Tyngsboro', Farley, Ipswich, and Freeman of Boston.

A motion to lay upon the table was negatived—77 to 102—and the bill then passed to be engrossed.

The bill to increase the capital of the Lowell Machine Shop, by the sum of \$500,000, was the next thing in the order. It was discussed by Messrs. Bird of Walpole, and Freeman of Boston, Bird of Walpole, and Lee of Templeton.

Pending a motion made by the last named gentleman, in relation to instructions that the committee inquire into the necessity or expediency of so large an increase of capital, and report all such facts as may be pertinent in the case—the House adjourned.

After the adjournment was announced, Mr. Spenser called attention to the fact that he had a resolution to introduce, in relation to the members to attend a lecture at the Medical College, upon the "Solidification of Gas." The statement elicited shouts of laughter. One honorable member declared that he would not attend, on account of the size of the pile, embracing the gas uttered by all members during the session.

SATURDAY, JAN. 29.

IN SENATE. Petition presented—Of Ebenezer Davis and others, of Dudley, for the passage of a law giving power to School Districts to take lands for the purpose of erecting school houses thereon; the American Peace Society, for an act of incorporation.

The sixth annual report of the Fitchburg Railroad Co., and the sixteenth annual report of the Boston and Worcester Railroad Co., were presented and referred.

The orders of the day were taken up, and several bills were ordered to be engrossed.

Ordered, That the Committee on Banks and Banking, do inquire into the expediency of authorizing Savings Banks to invest a portion of their funds in Railroad Corporations on which there are not mortgages exceeding twenty-five per cent. of their capital stock.

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road projects, and for the repeal of the Insolvent laws. Also the petitions of the City of Boston for leave to make temporary loans in anticipation of the Landmark statute.

Charles Stark Lowell and others that the December term of the Court of Common Pleas in Essex may be held in Lawrence instead of Ipswich.

The Committee on the Judiciary was directed to consider the expediency of abolishing bills of discovery.

The orders of the day were taken up and sundry resolutions therein advanced one stage.—[Transcript.]

THURSDAY, FEB. 3, 1896.

IN SENATE, ordered that the abstract of the Banks and Savings Institutions be recommitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Banks and Banking with instructions to inquire whether the provisions of the law of the last year have been complied with.

An order was passed that the Committee on the Judiciary inquire and report whether the law reducing salaries, passed March 7, 1893, was just and equitable, and if in their opinion it was not, to consider the expediency of restoring all salaries as have not been already restored.

Adjusted.

IN THE HOUSE, after prayer by Rev. Mr. Aiken, Mr. Draper of Warwick appeared, was qualified and took his seat.

The bills to incorporate the capitals of the Ballard Vale, and Lowell Machine Shops were passed to be enacted.

Leave of absence for three weeks was granted to Mr. Robinson of Fall River, and for five days to Mr. Brown of New Bedford.

Among the petitions were those of James Townsend and 1190 others for the passage of a Mechanics' lien law; of Charles Stearns and others for incorporation of the Springfield Aqueduct; of a company of 1400 others for incorporation of the Greylock Iron Works. Also of numerous parties in relation to Railroad projects.

It was reported for furnishing copies of the State Map to the county of Nantucket.

The Special Committee on Railroad Accidents was directed to consider the expediency of providing for certain tests of strength on Railroad bridges, and to report thereon.

The order yesterday offered by Mr. Bird of Walpole, directing the Committee on Education, to consider the expediency of providing for a Board of Official Reporters to the Legislature, was adopted.

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the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, stating that the increased expenditures of the War Department, amounting to four millions of dollars, made it indispensable that these should be immediately action on the Loan bill. The report of the Secretary of the Treasury had not been laid on the table of the members, and for the want of it had been neglected to accompany the bill with a report, but it might mislead the members of the House as well as the whole country. He was not now able to enter into a discussion of the merits of the War bill, (which would call for sixteen millions) but from the urgency of the Acting Secretary of the Treasury would move that the bill be taken up next Wednesday.

Mr. Ashmun called the attention of the House to the fact that the Secretary of the Treasury was urging the action of Congress upon his measure, while at the same time he had not furnished the members with his report, although two months had elapsed since the Committee on Printing had been called upon for an explanation.

Mr. McKay observed that there had been rumors that the Secretary had altered tables in his report, but it was not so.

Mr. Ashmun replied that the printer was now in the House, and that he verified that the said tables had been altered in the report of the Secretary, and that the delay in furnishing the report was wholly owing to him.

Mr. McKay answered that the gentleman had not been enough, and urged an early action on the bill.

Mr. Hudson stated that the bill had been read twice, and referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Mr. McKay produced a minority report of the bill, which was read and ordered to be printed.

A communication from the Treasury Department, received, in reference to this loan, and ordered to be printed.—[Adjourned.]

MONDAY, JAN. 31.

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John Trevelyan. Jan. 27th, Mr. John Trevelyan to Miss Trevelyan, daughter of the late Mr. Stephen Pratt.

In North Andover, by Rev. E. W. Pratt, Rev. E. W. Pratt, Adams of Provincetown, in Miss Caroline M. Wiley, daughter of the late Mr. Wiley.

